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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT

Border Guards (PS) in the Hradek nad
Nisou and Rumburk Areas

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1. The following information on the PS and border guard in the Hradek nad Nisou area (50°51'N - 14°51'E) has been reported:

The PS detachment in Hradek nad Nisou is about one platoon strong, and is commanded by a lieutenant.

Transportation: Several Skoda make jeeps, one ambulance car.

Headquarters: In Zitavska Street, in the former custom house building.

Enlisted men: Mostly Slovaks, disinterested in military duties.

The PS unit in Hradek is subordinated to Jablone PS Command (probably company or battalion headquarters). Patrols of two men each guard a three kilometer sector of border. During the night, patrols are made up of three men armed with automatic pistols. The border is guarded by the members of the local SNB.

2. The following is information on the border guard in the Rumburk (50°57'N - 14°34'E) salient:
- PS members stationed in Jirikov (50°59'N - 14°35'E), Rumburk and Sluknov (51°01'N - 14°28'E) are mostly young Slovak soldiers. The border line is not so closely watched by the border guard, and crossing is possible practically everywhere.

The system of guarding the border is based on whole nets of locally recruited spies and informants. Smugglers, thieves, and political offenders caught on both sides of the border are not punished, but are forced to work as PS assistants. PS units have frequent exercises and are concentrated in particular areas as quickly as possible. They set up road blocks and screen every person passing.

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